



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
11.04.25**

Absent: Jeremy Dresel, Jason Houle
Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kyle Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance, Marlys Dunne, MaryJo Wiatrak, and Marie Rivers.

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman. County EDA/HRA representative Nancy Hoffman was in attendance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: November 4, 2025.

Commissioner Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: October 14, 2025.

Commissioner Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 14th minutes. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITIONS

5a. City Council Liaison Report-Marie Rivers

Commissioner Rivers reported that the City Council held a regular meeting on October 28. Key actions and discussions included:

- Design Review Approval: The council approved a design review for 8443 Wyoming Trail, where Northern Natural Gas will construct a new building.
- Zoning Code Updates: Several changes were made to the zoning code.
- New Street Names: Three new street names were approved as part of the Highway 8 construction project, in preparation for driveway access closures.
- County Rd 19 Roundabout: A cooperative agreement with Chisago County was approved for the upcoming roundabout project.
- Debt Levy Adjustment: The debt levy for the Public Works building was lowered.

- Fire Department Request: The Fire Department requested funding for a new commercial refrigerator.
- South Lindstrom Shores Development: The infiltration basin is not functioning properly. The developer requested the city take over the permit and accept the pond as-is, but the council declined due to performance issues.
- Olde Towne Rd Trail: The final payment for the Olde Towne Road trail project was approved.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Nancy Hoffman gave some county updates; The City of Taylors Falls is working on the cleanup of the old Springs Hotel; they had requested a small loan from the County EDA to finish the cleanup efforts. There are entrepreneur grant programs available for small business startups and building improvements. These grants are part of the counties (SBDC) Small Business Development Center. The county is also working on a couple of different marketing events.

Commissioner Dunne commented on the County EDA grants and stated that they have worked hard on making this a successful launch, the grants should be available January 2026. The retail trade analysis study through the University of Minnesota is in the process of collecting data and processing the results for the county. Dunne mentioned on the lake channel widening process and gave an update on the weirs.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the Financial Report. Dunne commented that the 30K loan for All Ways Automotive was taken out of Fund 15 which dropped the fund to just over 9K.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2025 Goals & Updates

1. Highway 8 Project

The city has received the project plans, and is in the process of reviewing, the council did approve the names of 3 new streets. Pechman stated that it is starting to come together as a project.

2. Land Development

Commissioner Rivers asked about Kendal Howard and their interest in the land. Pechman stated that he and Hoffman had a meeting with Randy and Terri from Kendal Howard. They have received information back from DEED and are able to qualify for funding opportunities close to a million dollars. Kendall Howard is looking at an approximately 20-million-dollar investment on the land. Randy expressed urgency about starting construction and he asked

about receiving tax abatement, Pechman will need to bring the request to the city council. Hoffman stated that she asked Randy to complete tax abatement estimates with the county assessor. Commission discussed the easement and land around School Lake for a future city owned trail. Commissioner Dunne asked about the end of October purchase contract date, and with the purchase date not being met, she asked if there was another contract that could be completed. Commissioners agreed to keep things moving with Kendal Howard in hopes for a spring of 2026 groundbreaking.

Pechman gave an update on LEI Packaging, Paul has been in communication with him, he has bought a building in Foley, MN. He is looking at a potential phase three building to be in Chisago City. His current building here is operational and functioning he would need a new building for additional production equipment.

3. Business and Residential Opportunities

Pechman stated he has received calls on some vacant land along County Rd. 19 in the last few weeks, they have inquired about sewer and water connections. Commission discussed the old Family Dollar site and boarded up home next to Smittys that are just sitting vacant. The Chisago Lakes Apartments are beginning to lease the 1st of December.

4. Business Engagement Event & Community Outreach

Commission discussed the event and the current RSVP count. Commissioner Dunne offered to visit businesses this Thursday and Friday to distribute more invite cards. The speakers are set, and Pechman will get gift cards for the door prizes. Hoffman will set up a table with information and future grant programs.

9. New Business

9a. Celebration of the Lakes

Pechman stated that the Chamber has a new Executive Director, and that the Chamber Board has voted not to sponsor the Celebration of the Lakes. Pechman stated that a lot of the big activities on the lake are still being planned by the different groups even though it's not directly for Celebration of the Lakes. He thinks the event can be slimmed down, and the cities and different groups can still have their own events. The tourism board has had discussions about taking on some events but not the whole celebration. They discussed using QR codes to simplify everything and get information out, the event is scheduled for February 14th. The Snowmobile Radar Run is set for the 14th, which is a big part of the celebration and groups should tag on to that event. The Rotary is sponsoring an event on the Thursday before it will be called "The Best of Chisago Lakes" it will take place at the Uncommon Loon. The Rotary and the Age Well Coalition are working on the fundraiser. This will be a ticketed event where people will vote on the best of, food, drink, apps, meals, desserts, those types of things, this is in the planning phase now and interest is being gathered.

Tickets will be \$50.00 this will include the tasting and entertainment. This will hopefully be the kickoff to the Celebration of the Lakes events.

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Deputy Clerk